

VZCZCXRO9445  
PP RUEHDBU  
DE RUEHDBU #0311 0471145  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 161145Z FEB 06  
FM AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6712  
INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1417  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1412  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1357  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1300  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1331  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1277  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1176  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0753  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1430  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0954  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1463  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 7821

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUSHANBE 000311

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EUR/ACE, DRL/IRF, INR, S/CT  
EUR FOR DAS BRYZA  
NSC FOR MILLARD, MERKEL  
ALMATY PASS TO USAID

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/16/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [EAID](#) [KISL](#) [KIRF](#) [TI](#)

SUBJECT: SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO ASK PERMISSION THAN BEG  
FORGIVENESS

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, EXEC, Embassy  
Dushanbe.  
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) USAID Dushanbe requested guidance from the Ambassador February 15 on a sensitive issue. The U.S. NGO Community Habitat and Finance (CHF)'s Alternative to Conflict in Tajikistan program has an Economic Opportunity Center (EOC) in Isfara in the sensitive Farghana Valley that offers computer, English-language, and other economic development courses. A local young imam is an active and contributing member of the EOC advisory board.

¶2. (C) Two of the participants in an EOC computer course are young men recently released from prison after having served terms for allegedly being members of the extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT). The two applied for an advertised EOC Program Manager position. The interview panel judged that one of the two is well qualified for the USAID-funded job. Before offering him the job, CHF decided to check with USAID Almaty. USAID Almaty queried USAID Dushanbe, which consulted with Embassy Dushanbe. The Embassy is grateful for this consultation.

¶3. (C) While the United States is a nation of "second chances" where any kind of discrimination against qualified candidates is usually anathema, in this case the Embassy strongly recommended against hiring the alleged former HT member.

¶4. (C) The Government of Tajikistan is extremely worried about Islamic radicalism, and its intelligence agencies place a high

priority on surveilling suspects and attempting to penetrate HT cells. In 2005, about 300 alleged HT members were arrested.

¶5. (C) A U.S.-funded NGO hiring a formerly imprisoned alleged HT member, even in all innocence, would have raised a red flag for the government. It also would have given a golden opportunity to anti-U.S. elements in the Ministry of Security to present to President Rahmonov "concrete evidence" that the United States connives with Islamic radicals to overthrow governments in the region, as rumored by "the Great Game players." Finally, it would have given ammunition to those who argue that foreign NGOs are dangerous.

¶6. (C) We regret this violation of the American values of fairness and good faith. However, given the political context, the recommendation not to hire had to be made.

HOAGLAND